

*Hi my name is Debbie and I am a daughter of the King who is celebrating recovery one day at a time free from the addiction of alcohol.*

*I'm here to give testimony of what God is doing through the amazing ministry of Celebrate Recovery here at Mt. Zion.*

*I've been a Christian now for over 25 years. When I first came to Christ, God set me free from many bad hurts, habits and hang-ups almost right away. I've always believed that God thought "hmmm...this one needs some tangible evidence of my power so that she will persevere."*

*There was one habit however, that I was not willing to surrender to God and that was my desire for alcohol. It was socially acceptable and I thought that as long as I kept it under control, I'd be ok.*

*Guess what...my need to "keep it under control" should have been my sign to know that it was controlling me. I think I knew that, but I didn't want to give it up!*

*In 2001, by His grace, God called me to the ministry where I served on staff in a very large church a leadership position for 9 years. In the beginning, I didn't drink often and I seemed (in my mind) to be doing ok. As time went on and the demands of the job increased, so did my drinking. Instead of saturating myself in His word at the end of a long hard day, I saturated myself and my spirit in alcohol.*

*Of course, this was never anything I shared with those I worked with...I was too ashamed and thought surely, no one else on staff struggled with anything...much less an ugly addiction.*

*At the end of 9 years, I was done! I was burnt out, felt like a total failure, had alienated myself from my co-workers, my church and felt completely unworthy of my relationship with the Lord. I made the decision to leave. Instead of making a choice to get healthy while I was taking a break from work, I just drank more to cover up the pain.*

*My husband eventually approached me and said "I think it's time for this house to be alcohol free." He had seen my struggle for years and was taking a stand. I agreed and felt some relief. I abstained from drinking for 86 days with no outside support. Then in April of 2015, I watched my oldest brother die from alcoholism. It was horrible to see what the effect of alcohol does to a body. I had also lost another brother to drugs and alcohol about 8 years prior.*

*I'd love to tell you that this is when I called Mt Zion to ask about CR, but instead broke my attempt at sobriety and drank for 5 days straight. I was doing my best to hide it from my family, but obviously not too well. On a Tuesday night my husband went into my closet and found my alcohol and brought it into the living room, setting it on the table in front of me.*

*He said to me "we're not angry...we're very concerned." You said you'd get help if you couldn't do this on your own and we need you to do that. This is only one example of the Grace God extended through the love of my family.*

*It had been 5 years since leaving my other church and my employment by the time I made the call to Celebrate Recovery, here at Mt. Zion. Five years of anguish. You see God will allow us to run from him, but He also let me know He was pursuing me.*

*From that very first phone call, I knew God was in control and I could feel His presence. I remember walking into my very first meeting which was 2 days after my husband confronted me. I felt such acceptance and love in the room. For the first time in years, I felt that I was in a safe place and that God was beginning the healing process because I had finally surrendered this are of my life to Him.*

*But the good news gets even better...CR is not just for folks suffering from addiction! It is a place for any of us who are struggling with something that is keeping us from our best relationship with Jesus! Whether it be a struggle with not being able to forgive someone who's hurt us, an eating disorder, compulsive tendencies, anger, feelings of failure ... the list goes on. CR is a place where you discover that you are not alone. You will meet others who share or have shared your struggle. You will gain hope.*

*The book of Ecclesiastes says there is nothing new under the sun! This means there is no hurt, habit or hang-up that is new to God! He can handle it!*

*My shame and feelings of unworthiness kept me from reaching out for help. I also thought God could not and would not ever use me again after I failed Him so greatly, but these unhealthy thought patterns and lies are symptomatic of any hurt, habit or hang up. They are the lies that the enemy uses to keep us stuck in our situation.*

*I could go on and on about this wonderful ministry! I pray you've caught a glimpse of my joy and healing! God's great power and love are alive through the ministry of CR and this wonderful body of believers at Mt. Zion! Thank you thank you thank you!*

*If you're curious...just come to a CR meeting and see what the Lord will do!*

*To God be the glory!*

*Thanks for letting me share,  
"Debbie"*

FREEDOM FROM HURTS, HABITS AND HANG-UPS

**CELEBRATE**

**RECOVERY**

**IT'S A NEW DAY**